

## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 29, 2012

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 10(a) - Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Curtis School Project at 15800 West Mulholland Drive and its Mitigated Negative Declaration (ENV-2012-836-MND).**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Curtis School Project at 15800 West Mulholland Drive and its Mitigated Negative Declaration (ENV-2012-836-MND).

Background: The two attached comment letters, dated June 21 and July 18, 2012, were sent by staff to the City of Los Angeles' Mulholland Design Review Board (MDRB). Staff exchanged some ideas with Curtis School representatives at the second MDRB meeting. Upon the request of the school to help expedite its approval process, the MDRB approved the school's Master Plan with the contingency that if anything substantial changed with the project that such changes would mandate the City to bring those change back before the MDRB.

Staff has not yet finished a third comment letter pending a site visit with the applicant at the school scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>. Staff's concerns are limited to guaranteeing adequate wildlife movement from the Caltrans 405 Freeway right-of-way along the northern boundary of the school to the Mulholland Drive right-of-way.

Staff will attempt to forge a comprise, permanent, protected wildlife corridor footprint that meets the school's security concerns but also does not short change wildlife movement capacity.

A draft comment letter reflecting the outcome of the above site visit will be forwarded to the Conservancy and the Advisory Committee under separate cover.

As of this writing, the anticipated time for the project to go before the City Planning Commission is not known. However, it is imperative to put any deficiencies in the CEQA review on the record at this time.